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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

Art Unit: 1619

GRIEL ET AL.

APPLICATION NO: 10/001,544

FILED: OCTOBER 31, 2001

FOR: CRYSTALLINE BETA-LACTAM INTERMEDIATE

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2003, response to which is due June 5, 2003, entry of the following amendment is respectfully requested.

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Delete the Abstract, page 18, and substitute therefore the following abstract.

Abstract

The novel intermediate compound crystalline 7-[2-(2-formylaminothiazol-4-yl)-2-(Z)-(methoxyimino)acetamido]-3-methoxymethyl-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid-1-(isopropoxycarbonyloxy)ethyl ester is provided as an intermediate in the production and crystallization of cefpodoxime proxetil. The crystallization process comprises dissolving or suspending the intermediate in the presence of a nitrile or a ketone or mixtures thereof; at a ratio of 1 gm of the intermediate to 2-15 ml nitrile; or at a ratio of 1 gm of the intermediate to 3-15 ml ketone; in the presence of 5-80 ml water; and thereafter isolating the intermediate in crystalline form and converting the intermediate by splitting off the formyl group from the amino group attached to the thiazolyl group, to obtain the desired product cefpodoxime proxetil, in the form of a diastereoisomeric mixture in a ratio of B/(A+B) of 0.5 to 0.6.